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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5576th meeting of the Security Council, held on 1 December 2006, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Letter dated 22 November 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council warmly welcomes the signing on 21 November by the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement, and the commitment both parties have stated to transforming the existing ceasefire into a permanent peace.

"The Security Council notes the request of the parties for United Nations assistance in implementing key aspects of the Agreement, in particular monitoring of arrangements relating to the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides and election monitoring. The Security Council agrees that the United Nations should respond positively and expeditiously to this request for assistance.

"The Security Council welcomes and expresses support for the Secretary-General's intention to send a technical assessment mission to Nepal with a view to proposing, following close consultations with the parties, a fully developed concept of United Nations operations, including a United Nations political mission to deliver the assistance requested, and to dispatch an advance deployment of essential personnel of up to 35 monitors and 25 electoral personnel.

"The Security Council stands ready to consider the Secretary-General's formal proposals as soon as the technical assessment is complete."

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